

Multiemployer Pension Recapitalization and Reform Plan – Phone Script

U.S. Capitol switchboard: (202) 224-3121

U.S. Capitol switchboard toll-free: (866) 338-1015

Here's a list of the [U.S. senators by state](#).

SAMPLE TELEPHONE SCRIPT

Hello, my name is _____ and I live in _____.

I am an (active or retired) member of the International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers (if appropriate also identify as a veteran). I am calling the Senator to oppose the Grassley-Alexander "Multiemployer Pension Recapitalization and Reform Plan."

This plan would bankrupt my pension plan and increase taxes on what little is left.

When big banks and Wall Street were in trouble, Congress gifted them with a \$700 billion bailout 2008. The multiemployer pension system, including the failing plans and the Pension Benefit Guaranty Corporation, could be made whole by taking back just 0.005% (one half of one percent) of the 14-percent corporate tax break passed by Congress in 2017 at a cost of \$1.4 trillion.

I (will or already) pay payroll taxes on my pension checks, and now the Republicans want to add 10 percent in additional taxes. The Grassley proposal would also:

- Drastically increase Pension Benefit Guaranty Corporation (PBGC) premiums
- Create massive new taxes on the wealth of workers
- Cap the discount rate at 6%, requiring plans to increase contributions and slash benefits.
- Render our pension system unsustainable and result in government-induced market failure

This proposal is not bipartisan and no part of it is acceptable to me or the IBEW.

Congress needs to focus on finding solutions for failing plans, not devastate mine, which is in good shape. I urge the Senate to pass the bipartisan Butch Lewis Act, (H.R. 397), which passed the House on July 25, 2019, with IBEW support. It is a loan program, not a bailout.

Butch Lewis is the best current proposal because it does not increase premiums and fees on healthy pension plans to support failing plans.

The Mine Workers are most at risk and need immediate relief. I support the bipartisan American Miners Act (S. 2788).

IBEW members didn't cause this crisis. We have only worked hard and counted on the multiemployer pension system to be there for us and our families in our retirement years. I hope you will stand with your constituents on this issue.

Thank you.